

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Whatever someone may
feel about partisan
documentaries, in
the past such movies
have been
distributed
exclusively through
movie theatres and
campus
presentations. In
the former, a viewer
is required to pay
for admission in
order to exercise
his/her election to
view the film and in
the latter case,
the audience must
travel to see the
film.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve

more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.